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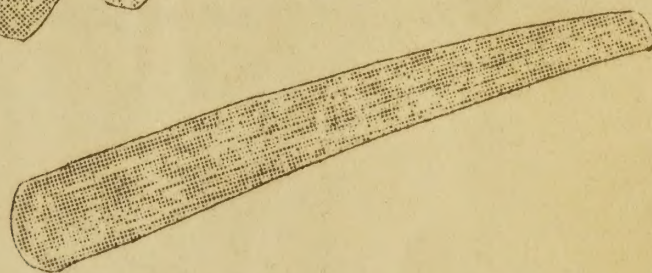
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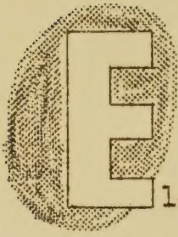
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lectricity is a valuable resource essential to national defense. I want to urge American farmers to see that every kilowatt-hour of electricity which they use makes its contribution to our national defense efforts.

"Electricity has proved its worth as an efficient tool in agricultural processes and in the farm home. Wisely used, it can increase our usable supplies of the very things we most need in this time of national emergency."--Claude R. Wickard

Secretary of Agriculture

"It is more than ever important that your consumers should use electricity wisely and carefully. Electricity used for producing and preserving food is electricity used wisely. Uses that increase farm productivity contribute directly to the defense effort of the Nation."--Harry Slattery

REA Administrator

From letters sent to REA borrowers -- July 1941

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FEB 25



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...I want to ...
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WPA Administrator

From Institute sent to WPA Administrator -- July 1941

FOREWORD

Like every other American force worthy of the name, REA has spent the past year fighting the war just as hard and just as effectively as it could.

The normal peacetime REA program is democracy at work. Its objective is a higher living and working standard for a great segment of the American people, and a close and direct control by those people over the business units through which that higher standard comes. Government provides loans and advice, not subsidies and dictation. This war is being fought to preserve to America the right to administer and to participate in such a program. The Government launched the REA program more than seven years ago. Any program which is worth fighting for should have developed, in that time, enough strength to carry its own share of the war burden, and more.

This is a report on how the REA program has thrown itself into the war, and what it has accomplished. Such a report has an important and obvious bearing on whether and how the program should be continued during the war, and whether it is earning a postwar claim to restoration and expansion.

Participation by the REA program in the war naturally divides into four principal phases.

1. Application of electricity to the production of food
2. Electric service to produce goods and train men for the fighting fronts.
3. Technical advice on problems of electricity supply for such production and training, in cases where construction of the physical facilities is not undertaken under REA supervision or sponsorship.
4. Mobilization of rural communities in home-front activities such as collecting scrap material, war bond sales, and equitable distribution and full utilization of scarce or rationed goods.

Such an arbitrary classification is, of course, an oversimplification. Moreover, since the REA program depends on both Government activity and that of millions of farm people for its virility, some participation in each class has been official and some of it that of private citizens.

INTRODUCTION

REA's conversion to a full war basis was neither sudden nor happenstance. As successive orders restricting or curtailing line construction issued from appropriate Government agencies, REA was prepared for them and in some cases actually had anticipated them with its own rulings to its borrowers.

In the first week of June, 1940, Administrator Slattery organized an REA Defense Committee, made up of the agency's top officials, to plan and direct REA's full participation in what was then the National Defense Program. To carry out the policies and plans of this Committee, the Administrator created the position of Power Consultant, to which an engineer was detailed full time. Over a period of months he added to his staff of assistants, but at all times his operations depended upon -- and commanded, -- the work of any or all of the REA staff.

Staff members began studies on power vital to national defense, on the dependability of REA power sources, and on the availability of power to supply REA-financed lines. They prepared maps showing areas covered by REA lines in relation to Army establishments, and prepared specifications for rural high-voltage transmission lines. They investigated production capacities of our material supply sources and held meetings with other government agencies to coordinate our defense work with that of those agencies.

All matters relating to national defense -- and, later, the war -- cleared through the Power Consultant. His office handled requests for priorities, applications for service to defense facilities, two area surveys to reveal production facilities, contracts for construction of power lines, and all relations with REA representatives on USDA Defense Boards.

As materials became scarce, but before any official restrictions were announced, REA counseled its borrowers and their engineers and attorneys to limit their requests for REA approval to undertakings which could be justified in a period of National emergency. As industrial plants demanded more and more electric power from overloaded generating plants, the Administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture urged consumers along REA-financed power lines to curtail their luxury uses of energy and to apply their power to food production; this went to REA systems in July, 1941, while the country had fresh in its mind assurances by electric industry leaders that we had ample electric capacity, and before the full effect of lend-lease and military food requirements and the imminent shortages of farm labor and production supplies could be fully foreseen.

REA construction received at first the same treatment in respect to priorities as urban electric construction. In the late fall of 1941, however, the SPAB allocated 1,600 tons of copper a month for a 6-months trial period to REA-financed rural line construction, in recognition of the value of electricity in food production. This order, like many others, became meaningless on December 7, 1941, although it was never formally revoked. Later, WPB reviewed the status of REA-financed construction in progress, and gave permission for the completion of 26 projects which had been 40% complete as we entered the war. But as materials became even more critical, the Administrator on July 20 ordered all REA construction stopped and requested all REA borrowers to make available for direct war purposes all critical material above their requirements for operation and maintenance. Ten days later the WPB issued a similar order.

In discussing the stoppage the Baltimore Sun on July 29 reported: "Spokesmen at the Board today said copper is 'always useful' and they would be glad to accept any that was offered. They added they hoped other organizations might profit by the example set by the REA."

In the meantime, REA had experienced another major effect of the war; in March, 1942, it moved from Washington to St. Louis, losing many of its trained specialists who for personal reasons could not make the move or who felt they could render greater service in their specialties in some other Government branch.

CHAPTER 1

MORE FOOD FOR VICTORY

In a message to a meeting of REA cooperative officials in Memphis, in November, 1942, the Secretary said:

"You are discussing a subject that is most important at this time, the production and conservation of food. More than that, you are a group who can do a great deal about it....You are in a position to accomplish a great deal....I am thinking of all the means which have been placed at their disposal through the Rural Electrification Administration for accomplishing more with less, for stretching the farm labor supply to help farmers achieve the goals that have been and will be set.....Your work here can help bring victory and a lasting peace."

Later the same month, at a regional meeting in Denver on the 1943 food goals, Secretary Wickard called the present food production drive the most tremendous in history. The outcome of this drive, he said, may determine how soon we will win the war. Farm production, he declared, is war production; food is as necessary as bullets.

Electric power on the farm is today helping 2,300,000 American farmers meet their production goals for the war. About two-thirds of these get their service through nearly 800 REA-financed distribution systems operating more than 370,000 miles of power lines.

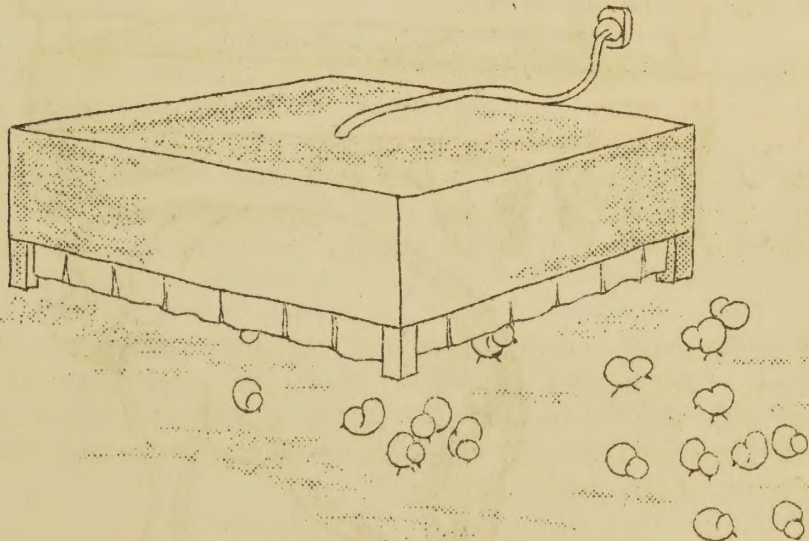
The importance of rural electrification in food production is significantly brought out in a report of the Rock County Electric Cooperative of Janesville, Wis., an REA-financed system. In 1942 this cooperative furnished power to milk 12,000 cows twice daily, brood 540,000 chickens, refrigerate more than 5,000 cubic feet of food storage space and operate more than 2,000 electric motors driving pumps, grinders, hay hoists and other equipment.

In the REA-financed cooperatives of Oklahoma, before restrictions were imposed, a drive, under the guidance of an REA staff member, for greater farm production for war resulted in wiring 1,362 poultry houses and installing 26 electric incubators, 311 poultry warmers, 48 electric pig brooders and 1,216 electric chick brooders.

What that many chick brooders mean in terms of poultry production can be estimated by considering the report of Mrs. O. T. Gilbert, of Forest, Miss. Mrs. Gilbert has five brooders, four of which she used three times in one season, and the fifth twice. That season she brooded 7,100 chicks. Six electric brooders used by C. F. Bullard of Almond, Ark., between November 1941 and September 1942 enabled him to market 9,100 broilers in addition to keeping 3,000 laying hens. A comparative figure is supplied by the turkey ranch of the Pharris brothers, of Mount Vernon, Mo. Using 17 electric brooders they raised 4,300 turkeys. Before their ranch was electrified its annual production was 1,500 turkeys.

Electric brooders are only one of the electrical devices which are helping the farmer achieve his war production goals. Electric incubators, electrified water systems, electric poultry water warmers, and even electric lighting are playing a vital part. Use of the automatic drinking cup supplied from an electric pump enabled L. E. Jones, of the REA-financed Park Electric Cooperative in Montana, to increase his milk production 10 percent. It made it possible to have fresh water before his dairy cows at all times. The Oakdale Cooperative Electrical Association of Wisconsin has 150 electric milking machines on its lines, and more than half of the 2,061 members of the Steele-Waseca Electric Cooperative in Minnesota milk with electricity. They are both REA financed systems.

Electric pig brooders are saving at least one additional pig out of every litter farrowed. O. J. Grau, president of the Buena Vista County Rural Electrification Cooperative at Storm Lake, Iowa, estimated that electric pig brooders of 100 of his neighbors contributed 10 tons of pork to 1942's Food-for-Freedom. Steve Deering, of the REA financed Missouri Rural Electric Cooperative Association, at Palmyra, who built his own brooders, reports: "Before using..... brooders my loss would run as high as 25 percent of each litter, as a result of exposure, crushing and injury. Last spring I had 32 home-made brooders in operation. Of the 375 young

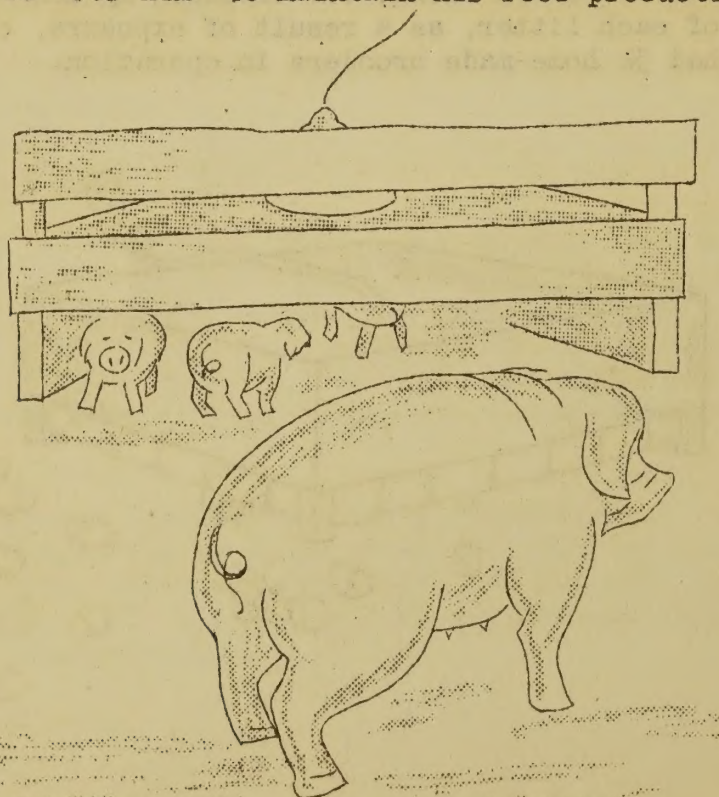


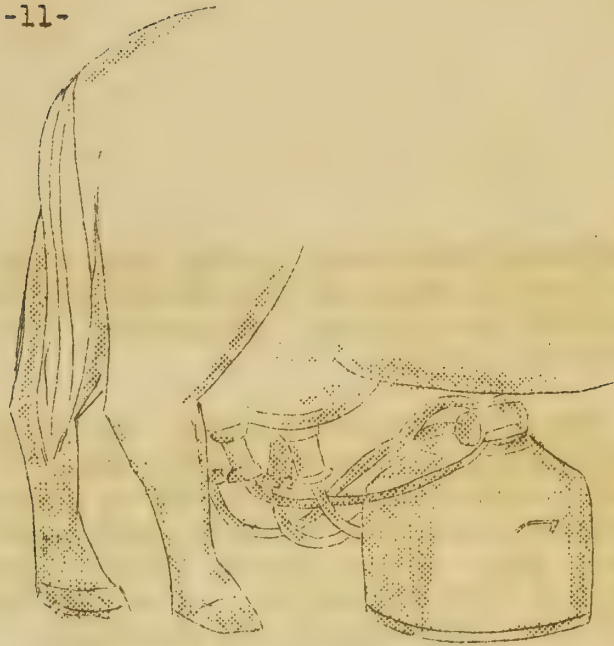
pigs I raised in these brooders very few were lost or crippled." And Herman Schmidt, member of the O'Brien County Rural Electric Cooperative, an REA-financed system in Iowa, writes: "I brooded 130 pigs during the middle of March..... Usually I expect to lose at least one pig each litter because the sow lies on them, and a loss of two pigs per litter can be expected. This year, although I lost a few pigs, I do not know of one which was lain on by the sow."

Even electric lights, which by many are considered merely a convenience, contribute to increased production for the war. John G. Waggoner, manager of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, an REA-financed system around Mattoon, Ill., tells of one cooperative member who stood on his combine last summer and counted 16 yard lights burning. His neighbors were servicing their farm machinery at night, so as to save time for work in the fields during the day.

On farms with electric power, electricity to a great extent is taking the place of the men called into the service and of the men gone into war industry. Except for electricity meeting the production quotas on many American farms would have been impossible. Rural electricity operating labor-saving devices thus is making it possible for fewer men to produce more food.

A demonstration conducted by the Alabama Extension Service showed a 50 percent saving on labor in poultry brooding when electric brooders are used. Electrical equipment in dairy farming is equally saving in labor. F. M. Coulter, of Collinsville, Okla., and L. B. Ziegler, of Allendale, So. Car., say they could not continue to operate their dairies without electricity, and C. B. Nolan, of the Cumberland Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, REA-financed system in Kentucky, says his dairy farm showed a 75 percent increase in efficiency when he began using electrical appliances. Likewise, L. E. Jones, of Montana, previously mentioned, also writes that electricity has made it possible for him to maintain his food production in spite of scarcity of help.





The electric milking machine has taken the place of many experienced but absent milkers. L. O. Parr, of Hollis, Okla., says he installed a milking machine because of the shortage of help. L. J. Sifford of Blackwell, Okla., says his electric milker saves more than half of the time milking formerly required. And Mrs. C. J. Hopper, of York County, So. Car., writes that electric milking machines have eliminated the need for two-thirds of her hired help. She now operates her farm with two men, where formerly she had six. Thus four men have been released for war or war industry.

The manager of the Southwest Electric Cooperative, of Bolivar, Mo., an REA-financed system, writes that electrically operated water systems have been the salvation of many members during the summer, especially when the young men have gone into the Army. Floyd Lejune, a member of this cooperative, asserts that there "isn't half the work to do" since he has an electric water system. He thus has more time to devote to other farm work.

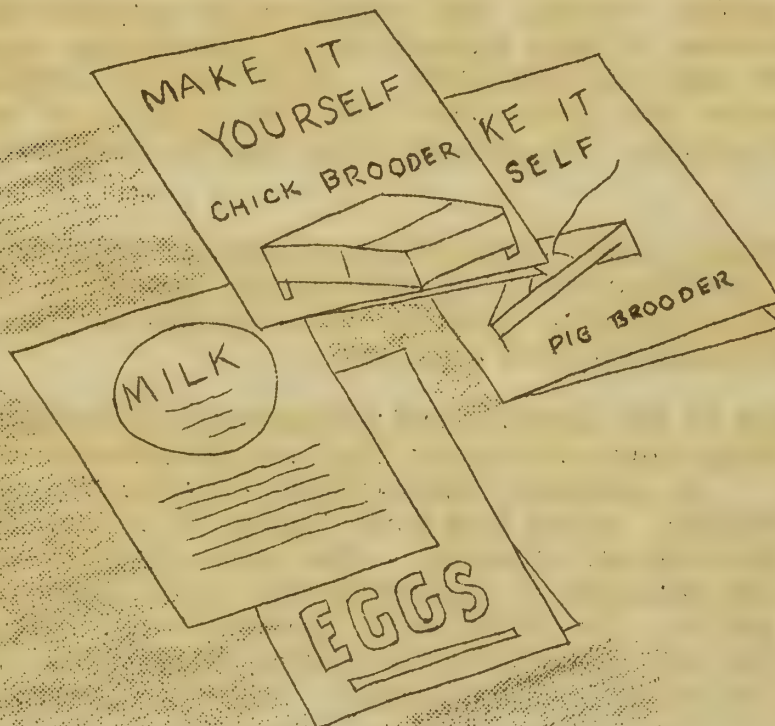
Electric lighting itself contributes greatly to saving farm labor. A committee of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, after a survey conducted a few years ago, indicated that barnyard lighting saves the average farm a man-month of labor each year.

The study made by the Agricultural Engineering Department of the A. & M. College of Texas sheds additional light on the meaning of electricity in saving labor. An automatic water pressure system in a 50-cow dairy barn, the study reveals, saves from 3 to 5 hours in labor a day in time needed to clean the barn and utensils. Two hours of man-labor a day can be saved in the time required to pump water for 1,000 laying hens. With an electric milk cooler, the labor saved is from 1 to 2 hours per 1,000 pounds of milk. The milking machine is credited with saving 300 man-hours of labor a month for every 50 cows milked. And this leaves out of con-

sideration labor saved in the farm home, by good lighting, running water, the electric range and the electrical laundry equipment, releasing the farm wife for canning, preserving, the war garden and other chores of direct war import.

The War Production Board, as recently as January 1943, issued a Supplementary Preference Rating Order (P-46-c) providing that "electric service connections may be made by producers to permit operation of farm production equipment to serve designated units of war production if the farmer owns or can obtain without priorities any one of six listed pieces of farm equipment. For such farmers service connections up to 5,000 feet total length are permitted.

REA encouraged in every way the use of electricity for productive purposes, recommending against so-called "luxury" uses for the duration. This policy changed the character of REA publications released for distribution. During 1941 and 1942, REA sent to its borrowers for distribution to interested individual farmers about 3500 copies of instructions for garden watering and plans for constructing a simple sprinkler irrigation installation; over 280,000 plans for constructing home-made electric chick brooders; 330,000 plans for building electric pig brooders; 900,000 copies of suggestions for using electricity to increase milk production; and 775,000 copies of similar suggestions dealing with eggs.



CHAPTER 2

REA LINES PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICES FOR WAR SINEWS

Electricity in rural areas brought a marked trend toward development of industry there. Many enterprising persons set up small plants along the rural high-lines, at first merely to process food and other farm products. Among these small industries were dairies, creameries, cheese factories, canneries, grist mills and saw mills and cold-storage plants.

As rural electrification spread, many other plants seeking to get closer to sources of raw materials, or desiring to avoid the crowded cities, also took up sites along rural lines.

When war broke out and the demand for production began to tax the limits of the large urban factories, many of these little country-side producers were eagerly pressed into service in the battle of production. And as the need for output increased, the value of plants near their raw material supplies increased, and new plants sprang up along the lines in increasing numbers.

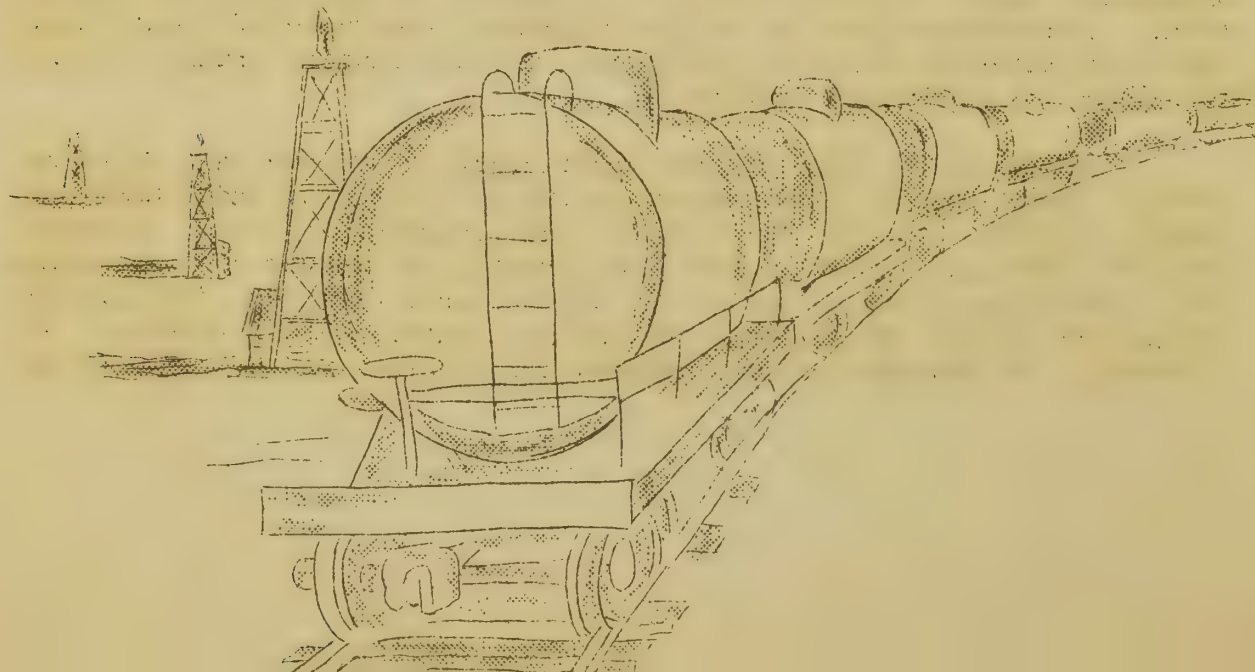
A survey of 780 REA-financed rural electric systems as of December 31, 1941, showed that there were 14,896 industrial and commercial users receiving service from rural lines operated by those systems, many of them industries contributing directly to the war effort. Among the industries so served were 5,273 agricultural services, 383 mineral industries, 2,095 agricultural processing plants, 220 air beacons, 40 airports, 40 defense housing projects and 41 Army and Navy establish-

ments. Services to mineral industries illustrate the diversity of type and general essentialness. Systems reporting were serving 2 aluminum plants (another was added in 1943), 135 coal mines, 7 fluorspar plants, 17 gas plants, 4 lead mines, 12 mercury mines, 134 oil wells, 30 refineries, 2 vanadium mines and 4 zinc mines. Additional information not included in the survey, showed that at least 300 oil wells and other oil industries were served.

Of 432 applications for industrial power submitted between July 1941 and July 1942, 358 were adjudged war loads--83 percent.

What some of these plants, fed by power from rural lines, are doing for war production can be cited. In Wisconsin, a ramrod factory on the lines of Trempeleau Electric Cooperative, an REA financed system, is turning out a million ramrods, a year, in addition to other supplies needed for cleaning gun barrels. A carburetor factory served by the REA-financed Tri-County Electric Cooperative, supplies parts daily to the large automotive plants in Detroit; in Tennessee a manufacturer supplies by REA-system power operates 125 sewing machines with 225 employees and has an output of 500 dozen shirts a day. The Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative in Tennessee serves 83 percent of its electricity to manufacturing plants, and plants dot the areas along the lines of the Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, another REA-financed system, also in Tennessee.

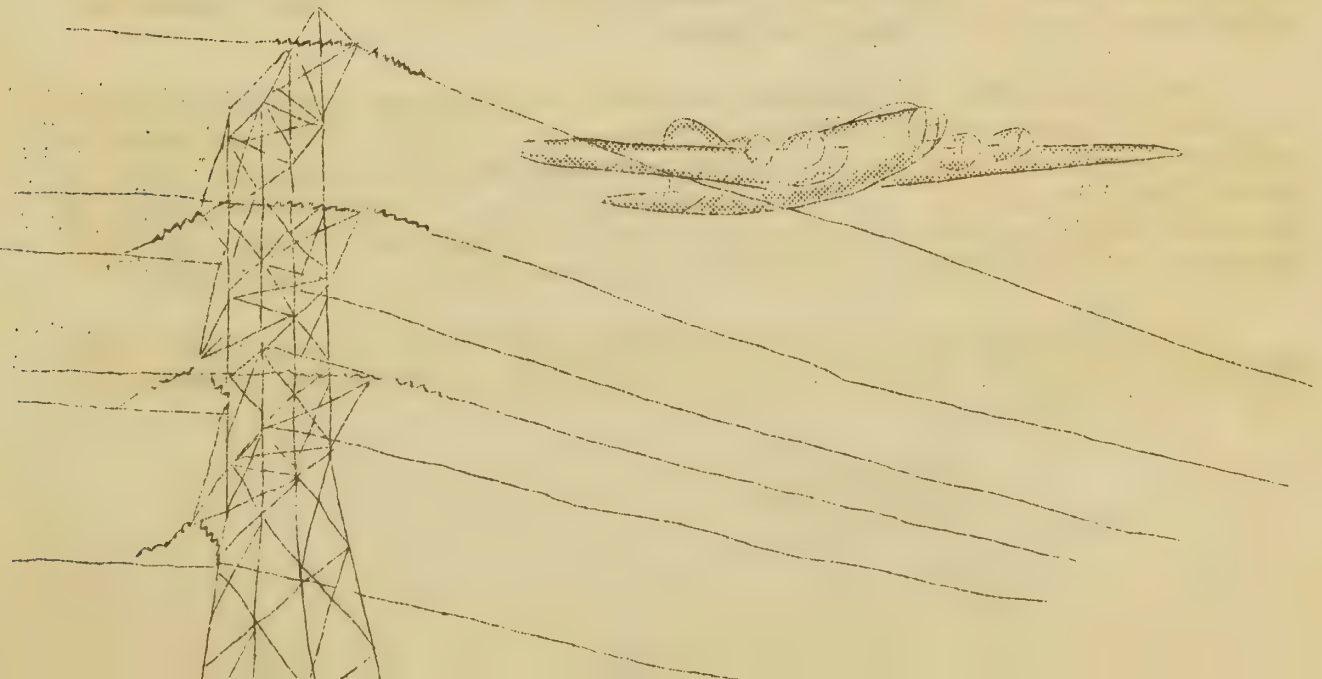
Frequently deferment of construction meant real hardship among farmers and others who had hoped for power. Yet these sacrifices were willingly made to advance the service for war. A case in point is that of the Brazos River Transmission Electric Cooperative. Months before war was declared, farmers and ranchers of northeast central Texas formed



the cooperative to obtain an adequate supply of electricity at low cost. They had contracted to take the entire output of Possum Kingdom Dam -- later renamed Morris Sheppard Dam -- then still under construction. Contracts had been let, materials purchased, and the line under construction when the war came. The cooperative voluntarily postponed its peacetime plans, willingly halting all construction with the exception of one section of line to serve a small municipality whose own overloaded plant had contracted to supply electricity to a factory producing engines for Army tanks.

One of the most important construction jobs undertaken by REA cooperatives for the war effort is the Ark-La transmission line. Here the Ark-La Electric Cooperative, composed of farmers of Arkansas and Louisiana, is furnishing one-third of the power for the new government aluminum plant near the Arkansas bauxite deposits. The construction of this line was publicly proclaimed by a leading utility executive of the area to be impossible within the time available. Although a month of rain slowed up the work, the 196-mile heavy transmission line was completed four weeks before the aluminum plant was ready for service. This is believed to be a record for this class of work. An idea of the magnitude of the undertaking may be gathered from the fact that 15 tank cars of oil were required to fill the circuit breakers in the substation transformers. The line is a major engineering undertaking.

Along an island chain protecting one of our seacoasts, REA engineers are working to complete a series of small electric systems to serve the Army and Navy. This development will include three separate systems, each with its own generating facilities. They will supply air bases, barracks, and essential services for maintaining military forces. In a section of North Carolina noted for its power deficiency, the Navy needed a large amount of power. Farmers of an REA financed cooperative responded





by developing plans for one of the largest and most self-sufficient generating and transmission systems in the region. The system is now under construction. It will have two permanent generating plants 30 miles apart, interconnected by heavy-duty transmission lines of unusual construction. Other transmission lines will tie the system into lines of private power companies.

Mobile Diesel engine plants, developed by REA engineers, have been pressed into service for emergency war work. Out of 25 such plants owned by various systems, fifteen are engaged in such work. Two plants, owned by a Virginia system, supplied power for the construction of the Blackstone Army camp, served an airport and a defense industry, and one, in January 1943 was sent to serve a Marine base. Two plants owned by another Virginia system supplied power for Naval and Marine bases and an air base. A plant owned in Oregon served a trailer camp in connection with a Naval training station, and another in North Dakota supplied power during construction of a Naval ammunition depot.

Two plants owned by systems in North Carolina are supplying additional power to Naval and Marine bases there, and a plant owned in Kansas did similar service on loan at the same projects, and later went to Texas to serve during construction of an ordnance plant. A second plant owned by the same Kansas system also helped at the Navy and Marine base in North Carolina, and then went to Florida to provide power at an air base.

Similar plants owned by other systems are doing similar war work, and one was sent to Alaska to supply additional power at an island military installation.

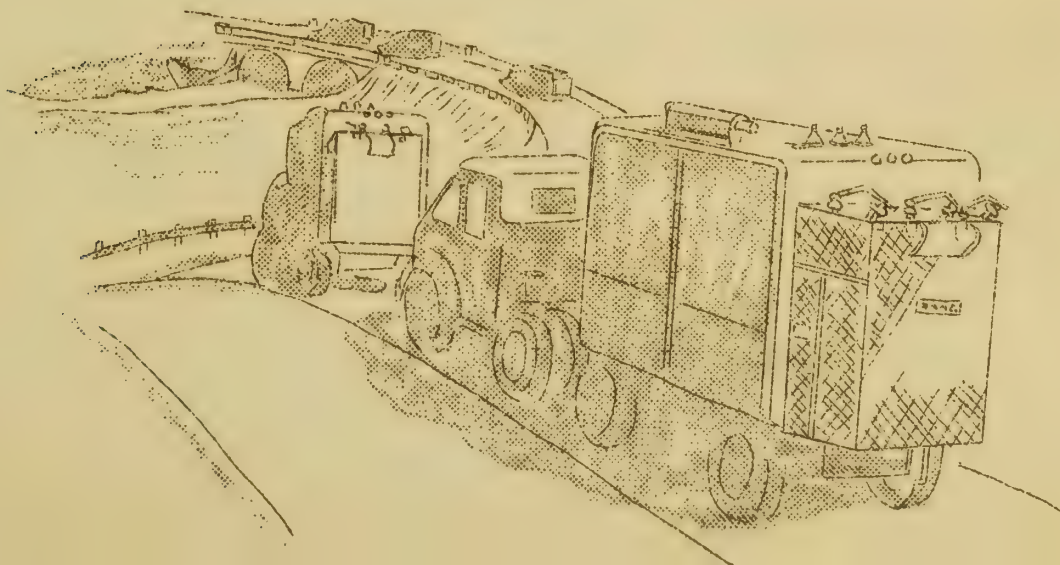
Military men began calling on REA systems for assistance in building our war machine. Response of the cooperatives in every case was immediate.

On September 14, 1940, the Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association received a telephone request from an army major for immediate service to a Mississippi CCC Camp which was being converted to Army use. The camp needed 100 kilowatts of energy at once, 300 kilowatts 2 weeks later and 2,000 kilowatts a month and a half after that.

Although it meant overloading the facilities of the system, the superintendent of the cooperative provided 50 kilowatts within 2 days. Eight days later, installation of new transformers made possible a supply of 100 kilowatts. By October 1, a new seven-mile power line was completed which made available a supply of 850 kilowatts, putting the cooperative ahead of the Army's schedule. On November 25 a heavy 110-kilovolt transmission line and substation were energized, bringing abundant power to the camp, Camp Shelby, 52 days after the request was made.

On December 10 of that year, REA received a telephone message from a colonel in Missouri, saying power was needed for Fort Leonard Wood, and that he wanted it within the next three weeks. Two days later two REA engineers and a rate specialist were on the ground assisting the colonel in obtaining the power. The Laclede Electric Cooperative, of Lebanon, undertook the task, and made power available before the three weeks expired.

Another case of materials saving concerns an REA system in Mississippi. The Plantation Pipeline Company, in July 1922, contracted with a private utility to provide 1500 kw for a pumping station at Paulding, Miss., in the area served by the REA cooperative. The contract called for 22 miles of line, using #2 wire. About the middle of September, cooperative employees saw power company crews cutting rights of way, and notified REA that the co-op's 44 kv line ran within about five miles of the pumping station.



The REA war power consultant immediately got in touch with WPB and subsequently a conference was called. As a result, the REA system built the line -- but not 22 miles in length, only six; and not of #2 wire, but of #6a wire, considerably lighter in weight. Instead of 73,816 pounds of copper and 55,360 pounds of steel the power company intended to use, the REA line required 13,247 pounds of copper and 39,500 pounds of steel. Thus 60,569 pounds of copper and 15,860 pounds of steel were saved.

A Navy commander, of the Army and Navy Munitions Board, commented: "Sixty thousand pounds of copper is a million cartridge shells."

Hundreds of similar demands were made upon the REA since the office of power consultant was established. In every case each inquiry received immediate attention. A survey of war services provided by REA-financed systems based on 724 reports received prior to December 1, 1942, showed service to 1,323 permanent war loads and 165 construction war loads, together 1,488 war loads of both types, with a KW demand of 64,104. Sixty-one percent of the REA systems served direct war loads, such as camps, airports and ammunition bases, and 31 percent of the systems served indirect war loads, such as food processing plants, mines and rural manufacturing.

CHAPTER 3

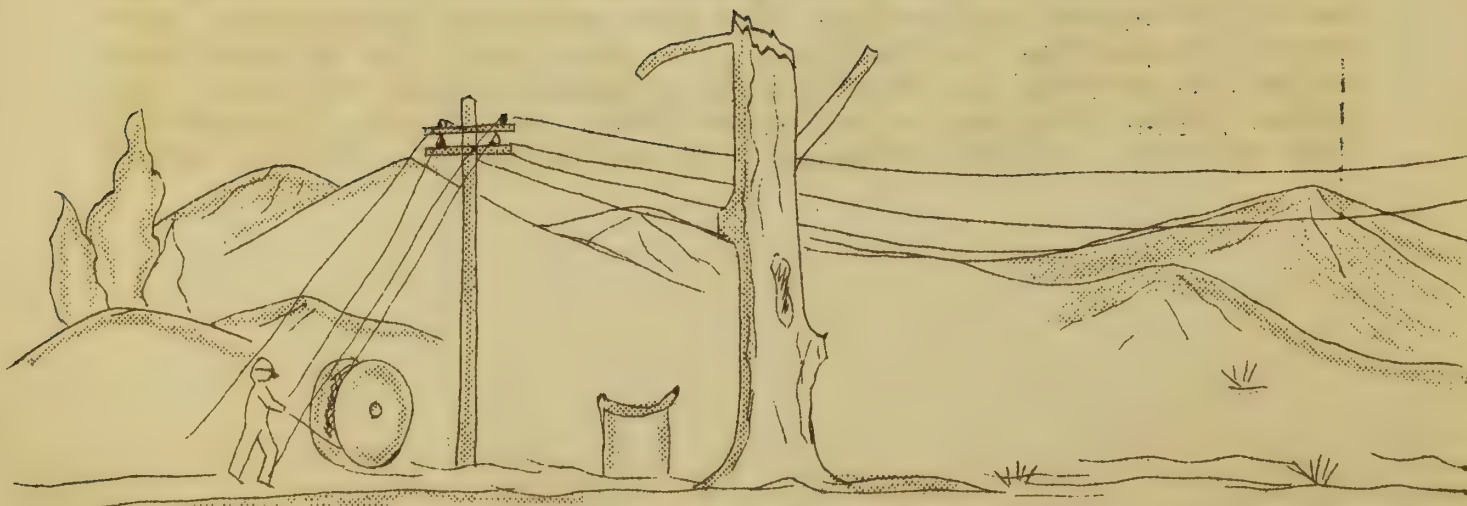
REA PROVIDES TECHNICAL CONSULTATION AND SERVICE

The Army and Navy had long recognized the especial value of the REA pool of public engineers and rate specialists and frequently resorted to their advice. In that manner hundreds of thousands of dollars were saved for the war services. The Fixed Fee Division of the Army Quartermaster Corps called on the REA staff for studies on sources of power, facilities required and cost of constructing substations for ten proposed National Guard Camps. As a result, the War Department saved more than \$400,000 in the cost of power facilities to serve two camps, and is making a yearly saving of \$30,000 in power costs for a third camp. As a further result, distribution systems of most Army camps follow REA designs.

It was not alone cash that REA experts saved for the War Department. Valuable materials also figured in these savings. When an ammunition depot was planned for the Black Hills country, a utility in the region was awarded a contract to build a long transmission line requiring the use of 250 tons of copper wire. REA, as a government power agency, protested, documenting its objections. As a result the War Department called for new bids, and the 250 tons of valuable copper were saved together with a large sum in the cost of power. In the end a high-ranking Army engineer, who had previously been critical of REA, wrote a letter

acknowledging the saving. He said: "The long transmission line will not be built. Your kindness in bringing this matter to our attention is appreciated, and if you see any other cases of unnecessary use of copper, further advice will be welcome."

Similar such construction work has engaged REA engineers in many parts of the country. Last summer when the Alcan highway to Alaska was under construction the Signal Corps asked for 12, and later nine more, REA engineers. They reported for duty within a few days and helped to construct the telephone line for one of the war's most difficult rush jobs, the long and sinuous road that crosses 1,500 miles of swamp, mountains, plains and wilderness of Canada and Alaska.



CHAPTER 4

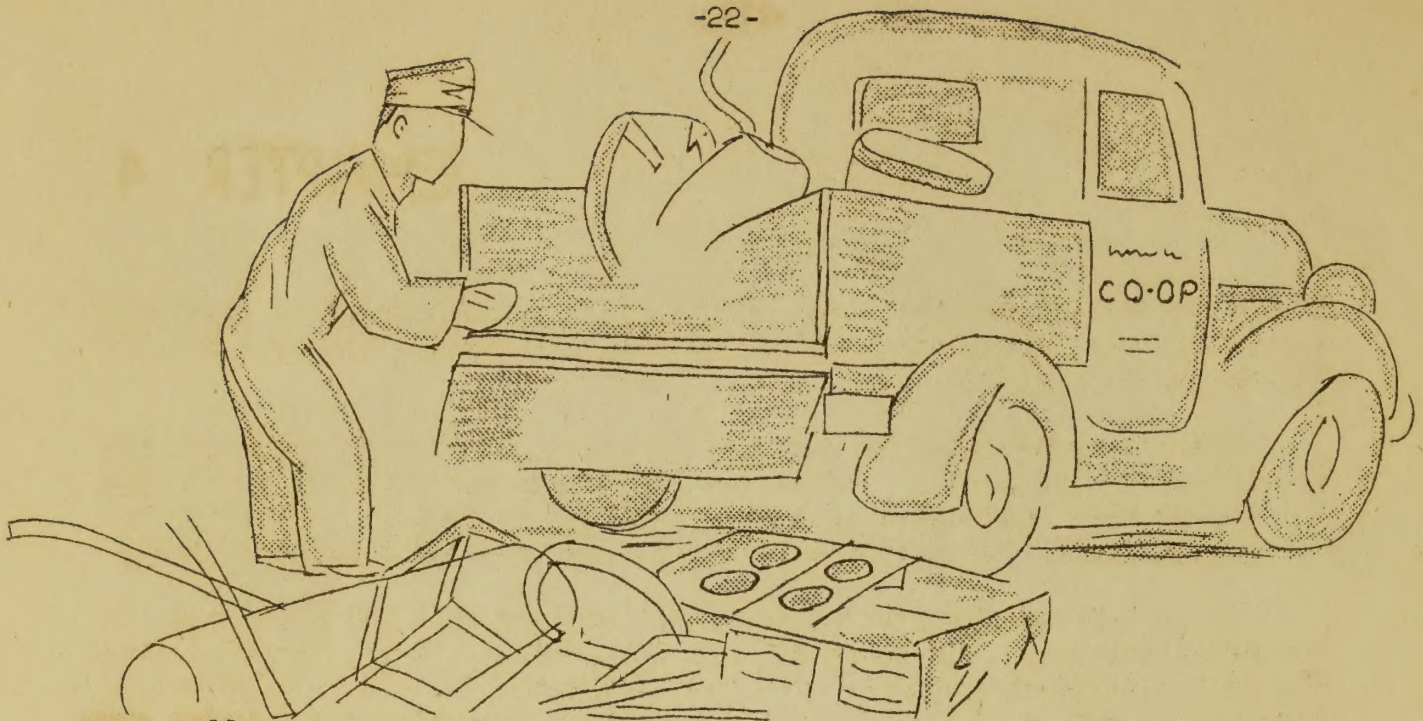
REA WORKERS IN WAR WORK

REA cooperatives take the lead in mobilizing their communities for war work. In the collection of scrap, the purchase of war bonds, OCD and Red Cross work, the closely-knit organization of the rural electric cooperative serves as the activating force. Rural communities do not have Chambers of Commerce, service clubs, or other rallying agencies; the REA co-ops fill the gap.

REA staff workers, are members of the State War Boards throughout the country, and local REA systems have members on the county boards. Through these representatives, REA systems and REA staff members keep in touch with war programs in which they can be of service. In turn, they have contributed suggestions and much material support.

The scrap collection campaign, in particular, drew the energies of REA co-ops everywhere. At WPB's request, the Administrator assigned members of the REA staff to help organize the scrap collection in rural areas. System offices in many communities became scrap collection centers, and REA trucks were used to haul in the scrap.

During an experimental period one REA system superintendent set up a 60-man organization, and working with the local salvage committee assisted in collecting 651 tons of scrap. In another district 521 tons



were collected in a short, intensive drive. In outlying sections, REA system employees were given complete responsibility for the scrap collection. The superintendent of the Top O' Michigan Rural Electric Company, which serves Beaver Island in Lake Michigan, is directing the drive on Beaver Island; early in December, one boat load of scrap had already been collected. The treasurer of an REA cooperative in Missouri gathered more than a ton of scrap by himself. An Illinois REA member found 8 tons, and in Minnesota a farmer operating 1,200 acres contributed more than 44 tons to the grand total.

The Safety Section of the REA is stressing participation in Red Cross first aid work, and many REA members have taken the prescribed courses and now serve as instructors. The Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Karnes City, Tex., graduated more than 400 persons in the Red Cross standard course, 246 in the Red Cross advanced course, and 43 in the "Teaching" course. Likewise in OCD work, REA members are carrying their share.

Nearly 500 of the REA systems publish monthly news letters which together reach approximately 700,000 rural families. These news letters continually urge active participation in the war campaign. They help maintain food production for the established goals, explain rationing, urge scrap contributions and bond buying.

A sampling survey late in December 1942 showed that the 224 reporting REA systems had \$1,370,833 invested in U. S. War Bonds, had already bought \$413,771 worth of Victory Bonds and had set aside \$276,765 more for such bonds. Inasmuch as this sample represents about a quarter

of the REA borrowers, the total amount of their investment in government securities must be substantially more than \$5,000,000; the June 30, 1942 figure was over \$3,000,000.

This is in addition to the more than \$15,000,000 in interest and \$12,000,000 on principal, which became due and was paid, and more than \$8,000,000 paid back ahead of schedule by 412 borrowers. These repayments, like money for purchase of bonds, go into the Federal treasury.

Three hundred REA systems reporting had 466 of their employees in the armed services. Of these 365 are in the Army, 14 of them officers. One is a lieutenant colonel. The Navy attracted 98, and the Marines 9. Five are in the Coast Guard. The 300 systems also reported 6 WAACS and 2 WAVES. Linemen account for the largest number of those gone into the services. Among the other classifications are 35 managers, 43 bookkeepers, 17 directors and 14 attorneys.

REA employees in the home office are also fully enlisted in the war effort. More than 10 percent of the payroll of REA staff members in St. Louis goes into War Bonds each month, and the staff members contributed \$6,000 to the Community War Chest of St. Louis. REA sponsors war service study courses of many kinds, among them nutrition courses, Red Cross first aid courses, and Civilian Defense courses. Employees of the REA are taking a special nurse's aid course in St. Louis City Hospital. Other REA employees are helping prepare surgical dressings at the Masonic Hospital. About half of the REA staff gave blood for the Red Cross Blood Bank -- 523 pints, since many gave two or three, even four times -- and women employees are cooperating in the USO program. During the Christmas season many of them spent much of their off-duty time collecting and wrapping 5,000 Christmas gifts for men in the armed services.

A substantial number of the REA employees are themselves in the armed service. Personnel records show that more than 200 employees have entered the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps, and the women's services. One out of every five employees is now in the service. For male employees the ratio is one out of three.

Only a little more than half of REA's normal staff remains in St. Louis. Although handicapped by losses in trained personnel, these employees are helping to safeguard the government's \$460,000,000 investment in the 800 REA-financed systems and to enable them to carry on their essential war functions.

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